

Brookings CUE – Research Task Force on Learning

Some reflections on

LEARNING FIRST:

A Research Agenda for Improving Learning in Low-Income Countries

Brookings Research Symposium, Washington, DC

December 6, 2012

Dan Wagner, Professor

University of Pennsylvania



Main points

1. Please **read** the *Learning First* report.
2. *Learning First* contains:
 - a) critical reviews of 5 major domains
 - b) 9 core elements for creating a research agenda
 - c) 19 key areas for near- and medium-term research
3. Main **assumption**: Education \neq Learning
4. Main **goal**: Provide scientific research in support of high-impact investments to improve learning for poorest children and youth.
5. **Broad insights** from the report include...

5 broad insights from the report

1. **Learning framework.** Learning occurs across space, time, and nature of learning ‘structure.’
2. **Global change in learning contexts.** Global/regional changes (demographics, multilingualism, migration, ICTs, etc.) make learning a ‘moving target.’
3. **Tailored learning.** Learning must be tailored to children’s needs and to contexts where they grow up.
4. **Towards a ‘pro-poor’ R&D agenda.** “Trickle down” research results (e.g., from OECD countries) will be less effective than research that is ‘pro-poor’ – that is, disaggregates to specific populations and contexts.
5. **What’s needed?:** Local research and partnerships, and substantial new funding.